

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A device comprising:  
a body defining a tapered hole for guiding a member into a tube, and defining  
a slot communicating with the hole for separating the body and the member.
- 5 2. The device of claim 1 wherein the body defines a bore communicating with  
the tapered hole.
3. The device of claim 2 wherein the bore has a constant diameter.
- 10 4. The device of claim 2 wherein the bore is tapered.
5. The device of claim 2 wherein a width of the bore is greater than a width of a  
narrowest portion of the tapered hole.
- 15 6. The device of claim 2 wherein the slot extends from the tapered hole and the  
bore to an external surface of the body.
7. The device of claim 1 wherein the member comprises a suture thread.
- 20 8. The device of claim 1 further comprising a handle extending from the body.
9. A device comprising:  
a tube; and  
a body defining a tapered hole for guiding a member into the tube, and  
25 defining a slot communicating with the hole for separating the body and the member.
10. The device of claim 9 wherein the body is configured for connection to an end  
of the tube.

- 30 11. The device of claim 9 wherein the body defines a bore for receiving the tube,  
the bore communicating with the tapered hole.
12. The device of claim 11 wherein the bore has a constant diameter.
- 35 13. The device of claim 11 wherein the bore is tapered.
14. The device of claim 11 wherein a width of the bore is greater than a width of a  
narrowest portion of the tapered hole.
- 40 15. The device of claim 11 wherein the slot extends from the tapered hole and the  
bore to an external surface of the body.
16. The device of claim 9 wherein the tube defines an opening for receiving the  
member.
- 45 17. The device of claim 16 wherein a width of the opening is substantially the  
same as a width of the narrowest portion of the tapered hole.
18. The device of claim 9 wherein the member comprises a suture thread.
- 50 19. The device of claim 9 further comprising a handle extending from the body.
20. A method comprising:  
coupling a body to an end of a tube, the body defining a tapered hole and a  
55 slot;  
guiding a member into the tube through the tapered hole; and  
separating the body and the member by passing the member through the slot.
21. The method of claim 20 wherein coupling comprises receiving the end of the  
60 tube in a bore in the body, the bore communicating with the tapered hole.

22. A device comprising:

guide means for guiding a member into a tube, the guide means including means for separating the guide means and the member.